

Claims

1. A method for preventing an hostile use of computer resources by an application running on a workstation, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a list of services that are not allowed for access by unspecified applications;

b) when such unspecified application runs on the workstation, preventing said application from accessing any resource directly;

c) analyzing any direct or indirect request for access to specific services, to determine whether such request is allowable according to the list defined under a) above;

d) if the request is allowable, allowing the workstation to process it; and

e) if the request is not allowable, preventing the unspecified application from accessing the requested resource;

wherein said resource may be any local or remote resource, including, but not limited to, memory allocation, files, directories, operations with files and directories, such as copy, delete or compress, or any other operation leading to a permanent change in the workstation or its periphery.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the list of services is provided as a look-up table.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein an unspecified application is an application which is not specifically identified in a pre-set list of applications.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the pre-set list of applications includes a list of resources which each application may utilize.

5. An agent for protecting a workstation against the hostile use of computer resources by an unspecified application running on said workstation, comprising:

a) means for detecting an unspecified application running on the workstation;

b) means for determining the requests for resources to be used by said unspecified application;

c) means for identifying chain requests for resources utilization, wherein said chain requests comprise requests made by resources called by said unspecified application;

d) means for determining whether requests made directly by said unspecified application are allowable;

e) means for determining whether requests made indirectly, as chain requests, by said unspecified application would be not allowable if made directly by said unspecified application; and

f) means for preventing said chain request from being processed, if it is determined that the request is not allowable, or that it would not be allowable if made directly by said unspecified application, and for allowing its processing if otherwise

determined.

6. An agent according to claim 5, wherein the means for determining whether requests made directly or indirectly by said unspecified application are allowable comprise a look-up table including a list of services that are not allowed for access by unspecified applications.

7. An agent according to claim 5 or 6, wherein said resource may be any local or remote resource, including, but not limited to, memory allocation, files, directories, operations with files and directories, such as copy, delete or compress, or any other operation leading to a permanent change in the workstation or its periphery.

8. An agent according to any one of claims 5 to 7, comprising a pre-set list of applications including a list of resources which each application may utilize.